U. S. Forest Service

Ogden, Utah
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To : Forest Supervisors

From : Joel L. Frykman, Assistant Regional Forester

Subject: Suppression

The enclosed directions for disposal of chemical pesticide containers were printed in the April 1962 issue of National Agricultural Chemicals Association News.

You will probably want to keep these directions in mind or on file as a safety precaution.

Particular note of these precautions should be taken by Forests which may have an accumulation of ethylene dibromide containers. Unused chemicals should be discarded only if there is not sufficient quantity in the containers to support the labor involved in accumulating the residue.

Enclosure

Joel L. Frykman

The following suggestions have been carefully developed by a special Industry Committee as basic safe-disposal procedures for empty containers of toxic pesticide chemicals. These expressions of opinion are based on information believed to be reliable but are NOT intended to supersede the manufacturer's specific instructions for individual products that may appear on the label of the container.

No guarantee or warranty is expressed or implied that compliance with these suggestions will insure complete decontamination of ALL containers under ALL circumstances. The manufacturer of the product should be consulted as to recommendations for each specific product.

FOR ALL EMPTY CONTAINERS OF ALL TYPES

DO NOT RE-USE THE CONTAINER

Completely empty the contents and bury the unused chemical at least 18 inches deep in an isolated location away from water supplies.

GLASS CONTAINERS

Break the container and bury the pieces at least 18 inches deep in an isolated location away from water supplies.

FIBER AND PAPER CONTAINERS

Burn the empty container completely. Exercise extreme caution and stay well away from the smoke.

METAL CONTAINERS

ONE-GALLON CANS:

Pour one pint of water into the empty can and add one tablespoonful of household detergent. Rotate the can carefully to wet all inner surfaces with the solution. Bury the rinse solution at least 18 inches deep in an isolated location away from water supplies.

Punch holes in the top and the bottom of the can, crush the can and bury deeply in an isolated location.

FIVE-GALLON, THIRTY-GALLON, AND FIFTY-FIVE-GALLON DRUMS:

Pour the following mixture into the empty container:

5-gallon drums—2 qts. water, ½ cup caustic soda (household lye), 2 tablespoonfuls detergent

30-gallon drums—3 gallons water, 1 pound caustic soda (household lye), ½ cup detergent

55-gallon drums—5 gallons water, 2 pounds caustic soda (household lye), 1 cup detergent

Rotate container carefully until all inner surfaces are thoroughly wet. Bury the rinse solution at least 18 inches deep in an isolated area away from water supplies.

(Caution: Handle caustic soda (household lye) with extreme care. Do not get on skin, in eyes, or on clothing. Read and carefully follow the precautions on the package.)

Punch holes in the top and the bottom of the container, crush the container and bury deeply in an isolated area.

If the above rinse method cannot be used

Punch holes in the TOP of the container and burn in a hot fire until all of the paint has been completely burned off the container. Extreme caution should be exercised to insure that the containers are completely empty and that persons stay well away from the smoke and fumes.

Do not attempt to burn more than five containers at one time.

ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS AND PRECAUTIONS ON THE LABEL OF A PESTICIDE CONTAINER. HANDLE EMPTY CONTAINERS AS CAREFULLY AS THOSE THAT ARE FULL.